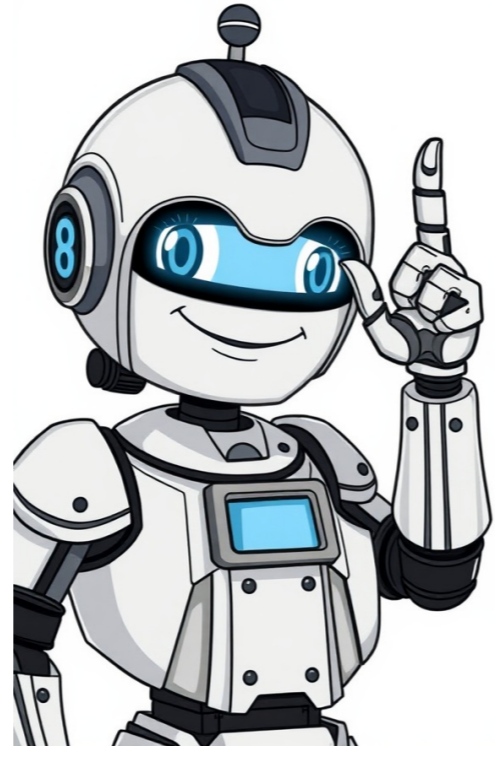


I'm not a robot



===== The terms "lengua", "idioma", and "lenguaje" in Spanish refer to language, but they don't always mean the same thing. In linguistics, "lengua" and "idioma" are used interchangeably to refer to a language or means of verbal communication. However, in everyday speech, "idioma" tends to be more formal. ===== The debate about whether to use "idioma", "lengua", or "lenguaje" in everyday conversation has been a topic of discussion among language learners and native speakers alike. While some argue that these terms are interchangeable, others claim that they have distinct meanings and uses. According to territurle's Feb 9, 2012 post, FELIZ77 confirmed that lengua is rarely used in conversations about languages, except when referring to the tongue or as a dialect with "nativa". However, Pinolero pointed out that he frequently hears lengua used in some of his native speaker conversations. The confusion arises from the fact that there are multiple variations: idioma (often translated as "language"), lengua (often translated as "tongue"), and lenguaje (a noun often translated as "language" but with a slightly different connotation). Webdunce suggested that while Acermax's response was correct, he personally prefers to use "idioma" for "language" and "lengua" for "tongue". Rey_Mysterio also stumbled upon this topic after seeing a thread about it. He found an interesting link to Answer #12 by Truebiz88, which highlighted the differences between these terms. In his little exposure to Spanish from American movies and cartoons, joygogo observed that idioma seems to be the most common way to refer to "language". A Cuban-American comedy show even featured a scene where a grandfather expressed disappointment with his grandson's limited knowledge of "su propio idioma". To clarify the meanings, webdunce provided information on the difference between "lenguaje" (a noun often translated as "language") and "lengua" (a noun often translated as "tongue"). El lenguaje is typically used with masculine articles and adjectives, while lengua refers specifically to the tongue. While there's no definitive answer to which term should be used, understanding the nuances between idioma, lengua, and lenguaje can help language learners avoid confusion and improve their Spanish skills.